GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:517
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
CAPACITY OF COLD STORAGES
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to increase the capacity of the existing cold storages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid provided to various implementing agencies for the overall development of food processing industry during each of the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 517 for 10.5.2007 regarding capacity of cold storages.

The Ministry of food Processing Industries, through its plan schemes during X Plan, has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing including for creation of/expansion/modernization special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere facility and cold storages as integral part of processing units or common facilities in food parks. Under the X Plan Scheme, assistance upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies.

Presently, over 81% of the cold storage capacity is for potato whereas capacity for other perishables including fruits & vegetables, meat & fish, milk and milk products is only about 1.5% of the total capacity. With a view to create a modern cold chain for preservation and value addition of perishables, during the XI Plan, the Ministry proposes to launch a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain infrastructure scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels − farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centres and Strategic Distribution Centres.

As deterioration of produce sets in within a few hours of the harvesting, farm level cooling and primary processing is critical to empower farmers. Such infrastructure at the farm gate would help the farmers preserve and add value to his produce resulting in better realizations. The next level in the chain would be Collection Centres where the produce from individual farms in the hinterland would be aggregated/sorted and kept in Cold Storages for onward supply to Strategic Distrubution Centres (SDCs), processing units and nearby consumption centers. The SDCs will have integrated infrastructure facilities like material handling equipment, refrigeration, IQF/Blast freezing facility, Frozen/CA/MA Storage, Modern Packaging Facilities, ancilliary equipment like X-ray, weigh bridge etc.

During the financial year 2007-2008, an amount of Rs. 100 Crores has been proposed in the budget of Ministry of Food Processing Industries for infrastructural Development including for cold storages.

The Ministry of food processing industries under its different plan schemes has been providing financial assistance for overall development of the food processing industry. During the last three years the amount spent by the Ministry under different plan schemes is as under:

Year	Rs. in Crore
2004-2005	80.42
2005-2006	119.65
2006-2007	152.96